

ITALY DECLARES WAR ON AUSTRIA

FORMAL PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED MAY 23—HOSTILITIES HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

AMBASSADORS ARE RECALLED

Mobilization of 2,000,000 Fully Armed and Equipped Soldiers Will Be Completed Within a Month From Now.

Rome.—Italy on May 23 declared war against Austria. The decree was signed by King Victor at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and becomes effective May 24.

At the same time Baron von Macchio, the Austrian ambassador, was handed his passports and left Rome the following day.

The Italian ambassador at Vienna, the Duc d'Avana, was recalled.

A decree was issued confiscating all Austrian and German ships in Italian harbors.

The king's mobilization decree went into effect at once. All preliminary arrangements were completed and the work of assembling the land and naval forces is going forward smoothly. Fully 2,000,000 men, fully equipped with arms and ammunition, it is expected, will be put in the field within a month. Several clashes have already been reported from the border.

Austrian troops attempted to invade Italian territory through the pass between Pont di Legno and Pejo May 23. Italian Alpine Chasseurs halted them at Forcellini di Montosio and drove them back across the border into Austria. The Austrian troops formed a frontier patrol. The Italian force was in a like mission. The encounter is the first skirmish of any importance between the two forces.

But for interrupted communication between Rome and Vienna the declaration of war would have been effective from May 23. After the cabinet meeting on that day at which the declaration was formulated, Baron Sonnino telegraphed the text of the proclamation to the Duc d'Avana, at Vienna, with instructions to present it to the Austro-Hungarian government and to ask for his passports.

Upon learning that telegraphic communication was interrupted and its presentation within the day was impossible, the communication was handed later to Baron von Macchio by Baron Conlino, together with the Austrian ambassador's passports.

Austrian troops have been withdrawn from some of the frontier posts and all navigation services in the Adriatic have been suspended. An indication that the Italian senate endorsed the chamber's action in granting the government extraordinary powers in the event of war, for which the whole country appears to be enthusiastic.

Simultaneously with the anticipated entrance of Italy, Serbia's reconstructed army has fully recovered from the campaigns which resulted in the Austrians being driven from Serbia, and well armed and equipped, it is announced, has commenced a march toward the Austrian border, bent on another invasion of Austrian territory.

Thus Austria is being attacked from all sides and has still another enemy, Italy and Roumania have an agreement to act in concert.

START COUNTER OFFENSIVE

New Battle Begins on San and Dniester Rivers as Russia Makes Flank Movement.

London.—Russia has commenced her counter-offensive against the Austro-Germans, who drove her Carpathian armies back to the San and Dniester rivers, and an entirely new battle is developing.

The Russians, with strong reinforcements, have crossed the San and advanced toward the Vistula and are advancing southward in an effort to outflank the Germans, who crossed the San in the vicinity of Jaroslavl. They also are striking hard at the Austrians in Bukovina, but have apparently made no further headway there, nor with their offensive in the Opatow region. The latter offensive, however, was a movement to uncover the German flank in Galicia, which it succeeded partly in doing.

In the Baltic provinces the Germans claim to have defeated the Russian northern wing in the region of Shavni and also to have repulsed the Russian attacks from the Dubysa and Niemen rivers.

In the west there has been a series of attacks along the greater part of the line, but no action of first importance.

More Work for U. S.

Washington.—If Italy were to enter the European conflict American ambassadors, ministers and consuls abroad would add to their already numerous tasks the custody of Italian interests in Austria, Germany and Turkey, as well as Austrian interests.

The diplomatic and consular machinery of the United States government is caring for the affairs of more countries and nationalities than any one nation has in the history of the world.

RUSSIANS STILL RETREAT

Teutonic Allies Near Przemyśl in Their Drive Against Eastern Enemy.

London.—Austrian and German armies continue massed attacks against the Russians, who are attempting to form a new line behind the River San, both north and south of Przemyśl and west of the Vistula river, in Southern Poland.

These attacks, according to Austrian and German reports, have met with their greatest success north of Przemyśl, where the German allies have crossed the river and have occupied Bielska, on the eastern bank. They also claim to have captured positions southeast of the former Austrian fortress, while their heavy guns are keeping up a bombardment from the west.

In Southern Poland their progress is not so marked, the Russians having had strong forces concentrated at Lvangelod, which they brought into the field and checked the advance.

It is stated from Petrograd that the Germans and Austrians are using between 30 and 40 army corps on the 300-mile front from Opatow, in Poland, to Kolomea, in Eastern Galicia. East of the latter city, in Bukovina, the Russians have broken the Austrian extreme right and are reported again to have occupied Czernowitz, the capital.

KING IN COMMAND OF ARMY

Italy's Monarch Will Entrust Regency to Duke of Aosta and Enter the Field.

London.—A late dispatch from Rome says: "It is assured that the king has manifested his intention to assume the effective command of the Italian army and entrust the regency to the Duke of Aosta. In this action King Victor will follow the example of his grandfather, King Victor Emmanuel II, who in 1896, gave the regency to Prince Eugenio."

While Italy is confidently believed to be making final preparations to enter the war on the side of the allies, Austria, who would be the direct object of her attack, is, with her German ally, attempting to inflict such a defeat on Russia that she will be able to divert troops, if necessary, to meet her new foe in the south.

Dispatches from Rome continue somewhat contradictory, but most of them agree that Italy has decided on the side of war, that the German and Austrian ambassadors are preparing to leave Rome and that the consuls-generals of those two countries either already have left their posts or will do so soon.

On the other hand, a message coming through Paris says that Austria has submitted new proposals, which she hopes will induce Italy to remain neutral.

CHANGE IN BRITISH CABINET

Reconstruction of Government Head Will Be for Purpose of Coalition Only.

London.—The formation of a non-partisan cabinet for the period of the war is an established fact. The spokesmen for the two great rival parties, Premier Asquith and Andrew Bonar Law, have made statements to the house of commons confirming reports of a coalition.

The prime minister said that nothing had been arranged for definitely, but three things were certain—that the prime minister and the foreign secretary would continue in office; that no change was contemplated in the policy of the country of prosecuting the war with all energy, and that the reconstruction of the cabinet would not mean any surrender by any person or party of their political purposes.

The Daily Telegraph regards the following appointments to the coalition ministry as almost certain:

A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty; Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer; J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for the colonies; Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary for India; Earl Kitchener and David Lloyd-George, secretaries for war, Lord Kitchener performing the military and Lloyd-George the civil duties of the war office.

Wants Army of 1,000,000.

London.—The Amsterdam correspondent of the Post says the Dutch war minister announced in parliament that a bill is being framed for universal compulsory military training. This measure would increase the army to approximately 1,000,000 men.

Hains Frogs in Texas.

Weatherford, Tex.—Thousands of small green frogs were precipitated upon the streets of this city during one of the heaviest rain storms in years.

Vienna Is Exasperated.

Amsterdam.—A Vienna report says: "The exasperation and contempt which Italy's treacherous surprise attack and her hypocritical justification arouse here (Vienna) are quite indescribable. Neither Serbia nor Russia, despite a long and costly war, is hated. Italy, however, or rather those Italian would-be politicians who offer injury to the majority of Italian people are so unutterably hated with the most profound hostility that this war can be terrible."

ROOSEVELT WINS IN LIBEL SUIT

JURY HOLDS THAT FORMER PRESIDENT DID NOT LIBEL WILLIAM BARNES.

VERDICT MADE IN 42 HOURS

Charges That the Former Chairman of the Republican State Committee Worked Crooked Politics Believed to Be True.

Syracuse, N. Y.—Twelve men chosen as a jury to determine whether Theodore Roosevelt libeled William Barnes when he declared that he worked through a "corrupt alliance between crooked business and crooked politics," and that he was "corruptly allied with Charles F. Murphy of Tammany Hall," on May 23 returned a verdict in favor of the former president. In the belief of the jury, everything Col. Roosevelt said about the former chairman of the Republican state committee was true, and therefore Mr. Barnes was not libeled.

The verdict was returned after 40 ballots had been taken and the jury had considered for 42 hours the evidence which was presented during five weeks of the trial. Nineteen hours were consumed before eleven of the jurors, who since the second ballot had stood together, persuaded Juror No. 11—Edward Burns, a Syracuse motorman and a Republican—to join with them in returning a verdict which Col. Roosevelt later declared to be "typically American."

For eleven of those 19 hours the jurors in favor of an unconditional verdict for the defendant talked to the one who, while himself favoring a similar verdict, insisted that the court costs and disbursements should be divided between the two principals.

Mr. Barnes was not in court and neither was his chief counsel, William M. Irvine, when the verdict was returned. The colonel was there, however, with his staff of counsel some time before Justice Andrews ascended the bench and opened court.

Immediately thereafter H. Wolff, one of Mr. Barnes' attorneys, entered an objection to the verdict.

The jury which tried Wm. Barnes' \$50,000 suit for alleged libel against Theodore Roosevelt is composed of seven Republicans, three Progressives and two Democrats. Twenty-two talesmen were examined before both sides announced they were satisfied with the 12 men in the box. The jurors are:

Henry Hoag, clerk, Republican (foreman); Irving J. Mills, woodworker, Republican; Walter J. Quill, manager, Republican; Franklin S. Rhodes, farmer, Progressive; Leonard K. Hungerford, painter, Progressive; F. W. Pierce, carpenter, Republican; Warren H. Somers, grocer, Republican; Ray Tanner, farm hand, Democrat; John W. Brown, farmer, Republican; George Boeschert, manufacturer, and Edward Burns, street car employee, Republican.

THE GERMANS CAPTURE RIGA

Second Port of Russia on the Baltic Sea Falls into the Hands of the Enemy.

London.—A Daily News dispatch from Copenhagen says: "It is stated that the Germans have captured Riga, on the Gulf of Riga, in Northwest Russia."

"A private dispatch reports a big naval battle in the Baltic."

Riga is Russia's principal port on the Baltic, aside from Petrograd. The town lies at the head of the Gulf of Riga, 312 miles southwest of Petrograd. It is an important industrial and commercial center. It has a population of about 300,000, many of whom before the war were Germans.

The Teutonic hammering, according to Austrian and German reports, is driving the Russians back from the River San in the region of Jaroslavl and tightening the circle around Przemyśl.

At other parts of the front the Russians appear to be withstanding the attacks in Southern Poland, they themselves taking the offensive. This, however, would be useless to them unless they can prevent the Austrians and Germans from making a further advance in Galicia.

Italian Front Movement Secret.

Italian Frontier.—The Italian military authorities are guarding with strictest secrecy the movement of the troops. It is known, nevertheless, that some 350,000 soldiers have been concentrated on the coast of Italy, across the Adriatic from Albania. These troops are at Brindisi, Bari and Foggia.

Cernay Imperiled.

Basel, Switzerland.—French artillery has destroyed a bridge across the Thur in the vicinity of Cernay, and it is believed that Cernay, which has been the German supply and hospital base in the Hartmannsweilerkopf and Hertenstein regions of Upper Alsace.

Trieste in Siege State.

Rome.—Dispatches from Trieste, Austria, confirm previous reports that a revolutionary movement is in progress there.

BALFOUR WILL HEAD NAVY

Formation of the Coalition Cabinet for England Is Now Nearing Completion.

London.—Progress in drawing up the coalition ministry has been slow during the week-end, for the Unionist leaders are still undecided as to how the chief offices at their disposal shall be filled.

Several matters, however, have been definitely settled. First, it is now agreed that Mr. Balfour is to be first lord of the admiralty.

It is a curious selection, because the justification of the coalition ministry is and must be that it is to increase the British national efficiency, and Mr. Balfour has already said to his friends that he fears the strain of this great office will be too much for his health.

Lord Lansdowne early last week expressed his view in his case also, that to take up office again would be too great a strain upon his health. But he has reconsidered his decision and will now enter the ministry. Lord Lansdowne has worked in complete sympathy with Bonar Law and his influence just now is inevitable in endeavoring to adjust conflicting claims of the not inconsiderable number of Unionist peers who wish to be in the government.

Mr. McKenna will stay at the home office. It is not expected that the India office will be offered to either Lord Curzon or Mr. Churchill. The latter may be invited to join the government, but not in one of the great offices. The report that Arthur Henderson will be president of the local government board is premature. It is not unlikely appointment to this office might be offered Sir John Simon.

ITALY'S DEPUTIES CAST DIE

Legislative Chamber Gives Full Power to Government by Big Vote—Act Means War.

Rome.—The chamber of deputies on May 20 adopted the bill conferring full powers on the government. The vote was 407 to 74. One member abstained from voting.

The bill passed amid tremendous enthusiasm. The day will be a historic one for the new Italy. The whole capital is expectant. Only in the period of the wars of independence can a parallel be found.

Although all of Rome appeared in accord, the authorities placed guards around the Piazza di Montecitorio, and threw a cordon of troops around the Austrian embassy to prevent any untoward incident. Flags were waving everywhere, including the British, French, Russian, Serbian and Montenegrin, which frequently were cheered by the crowds.

When the sitting of the chamber of deputies began there were present 482 deputies out of 500, the absentees being all deputies who were military uniforms and who had asked permission to leave from their military duties, were madly applauded.

A few minutes before the session began the poet, Gabriele D'Annunzio, one of the strongest advocates of war, appeared in the rear of the crowded public tribune. He was lifted shoulder high and passed to the first row.

The entire chamber and the tribunes arose and applauded for five minutes, crying: "Viva D'Annunzio."

Wilson Reviews Nation's War Dogs.

New York.—The big fleet of warships which has been at anchor in the Hudson for 10 days steamed out to sea at 11 o'clock May 18. President Wilson reviewed the five-mile line as it passed the Mayflower, off the Statue of Liberty.

Headed by the superdreadnought Wyoming, Admiral Fletcher's flagship, the 14 big battleships and their train of lesser fighting craft, steamed past the presidential yacht at 14 knots, each ship with its sallores and marines standing at the rail at attention. As each craft neared the Mayflower, her six-pounders, fore and aft, boomed out a presidential salute of 21 guns.

For nearly four months the fleet has been at practice. It now goes to Narragansett for the most elaborate war game ever held. Then all the ships needing repairs will be overhauled until the last of June.

Will Make War Longer.

Berlin.—"Certainly the addition of Italy to the hostile side means for the central powers and Turkey postponement of their final victory, but not in the same degree at the present moment as would have been the case months ago," writes Maj. Morath, the military critic, in the Tageblatt. He considers that Italy has now reached the highest point in her preparations.

"So long as no defeats occur and the spirit which plays an important role in the Italian character does not suffer," he continues, "we must count upon energetic conduct of the war."

Narrow Escape for Kaiser.

Geneva.—The German emperor and his staff had a narrow escape recently while watching the operations in a village near the River San, in Galicia. According to a Budapest dispatch, a heavy shell burst 500 yards from the emperor, among some automobiles, destroying several, including the emperor's, and killing his chauffeur. The emperor had left his car only 15 minutes before. As more Russian shells were falling in the neighborhood the emperor and his staff left.

NEWS OF MISSISSIPPI

The postoffice at Hazlehurst will change hands June 1, when Mrs. Harriett Wood succeeds Miss Balle Millsaps, who has held the office for 18 years. Miss Millsaps will continue in the office as assistant for an indefinite time.

The merchants and citizens of Nettleton and the surrounding community have perfected the plans for organizing a new bank to be known as the Nettleton Home Bank. The following officers were elected: J. A. Wyrul, president; J. D. Bryan and W. G. Francis, vice-presidents; R. B. Dabbs, cashier.

During an excursion trip on the steamer Sidney, out of Greenville, May 18, O. C. Hocutt became involved in a difficulty with Laddie Middleton, a young man, with the result that Middleton was slightly cut, while Hocutt received a blow on the head which later resulted in his death at a hospital. Middleton has been arrested on the charge of murder. Hocutt leaves a wife and three children.

After the rejection of all sealed bids for Laurel's latest \$60,000 issue of improvement bonds, the city commissioners have negotiated the sale of the entire issue to the Mortgage Security company of New Orleans, with which Dr. P. H. Saunders, formerly of Laurel, is associated. The bond issue was sold at a discount of \$900, which is the first time Laurel bonds have failed to bring par.

Fire of unknown origin practically wrecked the three-story brick B'nai B'rith club building, corner of Clay and Walnut streets, in Vicksburg, May 19, and water damage to the adjoining wholesale dry goods establishment of A. Rose & Co. was reported to be serious in the upper floors. The fire was discovered at 5 o'clock in the morning. Insurance in the sum of \$25,000 on the building and \$5,000 on furnishings was carried by the club. The damaged property is valued at \$60,000.

W. E. Knox, a farmer, living about four miles out from Houston, was shot and instantly killed May 30 by a neighbor farmer, Quit Houser, who used a shotgun, and shot Knox through the head, killing him instantly. It seems that there had been bad feeling between the two men for several weeks, which grew out of a disagreement in a settlement for land rent and work. Knox was attacked by Houser while in his field plowing. After the shooting Houser surrendered to the officers and was locked up in the county jail. Knox leaves a widow and no children, and Houser has a wife and three children.

At the opening session of their golden jubilee held at West Point, May 15, the Mississippi Press association adopted a resolution congratulating Woodrow Wilson "on the able and patriotic note addressed by him to the emperor of Germany on the sinking of the Lusitania." The resolution was offered by E. A. Fitzgerald of the Vicksburg Herald. On May 19, 150 attending members went to Starkville on a special train, where they were the guests of honor at a dinner. They were escorted from the college depot to the chapel by the student military body of the school. Following the visit to Starkville the editors continued to Columbus, where they were the guests of the girls' school at luncheon. Clarksdale, Laurel, Hattiesburg and Greenville are making a fight for the 1916 convention.

Luther Childs, the millionaire restaurant man, has purchased a home in Natchez and 3,500 acres of farm land in this and adjoining counties. The farm property was sold at \$7.50 per acre. Mr. Childs will leave next week for Texas, where he will purchase cattle and thoroughbred dairy stock. He says that it is his intention to supply the restaurants in Southern territory controlled by him with vegetables and dairy products from his farm.

The Duncan-Homochitto place, a plantation containing 1,300 acres, situated about 16 miles from Natchez, has been sold to Barkdale Bros. of Memphis and Blytheville, Ark. The purchasers announce that the place will be converted into a stock farm and all the stock and equipment on the Blytheville farm will be transferred to this county. The purchase price of the property here was \$10,000.

The Progressive State Bank of Tutwiler is now a full-fledged guaranteed bank, having received its certificate of guaranty Friday, May 14.

Bishop Gunn of the diocese of Mississippi dedicated the Catholic chapel at Shaw and confirmed a class in the faith all in one service.

Arrangements have been completed for the exhibition of motion pictures of the Columbus historical pageant, to be presented by the students of the Industrial Institute and College on the campus May 27, at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, through the medium of the Mississippi exposition commission.

PAGEANT FOR MAY QUEEN IS GIVEN

ANNUAL FESTIVAL AND ENTERTAINMENT AT BATTLE HILL WITNESSED BY MANY.

BANKS CONFORM TO LAW

Second Inspection Round of State Institutions Under New Statute Is Completed by Examiners.

—Jackson. The beautiful and spacious lawn at Battle Hill, the home of the Episcopal bishops of Mississippi, was the scene of a beautiful and interesting spectacle May 21, when the annual May queen parade and pageant was given under the auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary to the board of missions. Miss Doris Holder was the May queen, and Miss Anna Mallett was the fairy queen. This is an annual entertainment, which has been given at Battle Hill for the past ten years or more, and is always popular with the people of Jackson.

State Banks Conform.

J. S. Love, member of the state board of bank examiners for the Second or Southern Mississippi district, has returned to Jackson after having just completed the last examination of the second round since assuming the duties of his position. The statement is made that every bank is now under the guarantee of deposits provisions of the statute, or will be by the end of the present month, the period within the days of grace allowed under the law for every bank operating under the state law. About June 1 the examiners will start the third round of examinations.

Automobile Turns Turtle.

Four persons sustained painful injuries as a result of an automobile turning turtle while racing with a fast Illinois Central passenger train, near the city during the early hours of May 20. The car was driven by Phil Kimball, a manager of a Jackson moving picture theater. Kimball was accompanied on the night ride by Sam Hempill and three women.

Seeks Factory Location.

President Chas. H. Markham of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, recently spent the day at Jackson in conference with a committee of the Jackson board of trade. While the precise subject under discussion was not given out for publication, it is well known that it was relative to a very important industry which is said to be seeking a location at or near Jackson.

Candidates Stump in South.

At least four of the quintette of candidates for governor of Mississippi are down in the extreme lower part of the state, stumping it through Greene, George, Jackson, Harrison and Wayne counties. According to reports reaching Jackson these active campaigners are meeting fairly large crowds of people.

Governor Grants Pardon.

A woman, a child and a man were made supremely happy by Gov. Brewer when he granted a pardon to J. W. Scott, a farmer of Lafayette county. Scott had been convicted of stealing a mule and sent to the penitentiary for a term of three years. Scott's wife, accompanied by a bright-eyed little daughter, came to Jackson and made a personal plea for husband's freedom.

Laundry Suffers Fire Loss.

The Star Steam laundry on May 13 suffered a fire loss of about \$3,000. The origin of the blaze is unknown. It started in the boiler room, and had gained considerable headway before an alarm was turned in.

Ruling on Jitneys.

Defining the status of jitney operators for privilege license purposes, Assistant Attorney-General Lamar F. Easterling has rendered an opinion to Auditor Thompson. Gen. Easterling holds that "a jitney car is merely an automobile used for hire," and that it is clearly subject to such laws and regulations as are in force for control of such vehicular traffic.

I. O. O. F. Will Meet.

Secretary Wm. Hemingway of Capital Lodge No. 11, I. O. O. F., who is also past master of that organization in Mississippi, has prepared an information letter to the fraternity throughout the state relative to the grand lodge arrangements for the state convention of Odd Fellows. Capital Lodge will be the host for the occasion.

Rebuild Street Railway Tracks.

The Jackson Light and Traction company is now ordering the necessary materials to begin the work of rebuilding its tracks on Capitol street, which will start in the course of a few days.

Stovall Speaks at Jackson.

State Treasurer P. S. Stovall, a prominent candidate for governor of Mississippi, addressed a large audience that gathered at the court house here May 18. Mr. Stovall was presented to the audience by J. F. Stirling.